



FEBRUARY, 97

THE GARZETTE



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

GARS Ham Of The Month Pickett Cummins, AD4S

By Karl Phillips, N4JON

This month's ham of the month is Pickett Cummins - AD4S. This is sort of an "encore presentation" as he was featured five years ago and interviewed by Johnny Fearon, W4WKP. For you newcomers to the club, Pickett is the former writer for this column. I took over the reigns from him last year.

Pickett was born in Glasgow, Montana and his father, a member of the Corps of Engineers, moved the family to the Portland, Oregon area when Pickett was very young. They then relocated to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where Pickett attended grammar and high school. Pickett and his two other brothers grew up rather closely, all sharing the same bedroom. In 1947, one of his brothers became a ham. Pickett remembers being quite annoyed at being disturbed in the middle of the night by his brother calling CQ in Spanish on the AM band.

Pickett left Mississippi and attended Tulane University in New Orleans. At that time he became quite interested in music. As a musician, Pickett played in many concert, marching and jazz bands. Being so

interested in music, he took on the task of building a stereo system from a kit. Well, he got it built, but it didn't work. In attempting to find someone to give him some pointers on how to get the stereo to work, he came in contact with a ham. That ham's advice and assistance was just what he needed to get the stereo to work.

With hurricanes a frequent occurrence in Louisiana, 1960 came and so did the hurricanes. Pickett got interested in tracking these storms and was loaned a short-wave radio and it was at that point that Pickett got interested in ham radio. He got a Hallicrafters SX140 and began reading up on the hobby. He became an avid SWL and studied code for five months using the ARRL code practice.

Getting tested was the next step and in those days, testing was quite different. You had to know a ham that was willing to mail off for the test and then administer it to you. Without that General class ham, you were stuck! Pickett went to Swan Electronics and did find a ham. That ham was E.W. Shep-

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The President's Pen

By Howie Gould, W4NVF

Well this is the final Presidents Pen that I will be doing after three years of writing which amounts to 36 articles and there were other articles that I contributed over these years that made up a sizable number. Was it a chore? No it was not. Did I enjoy doing it? Yes I did. Would I want to do it again? Maybe. One thing for sure, it was most interesting and challenging and sometimes loads of fun.

The one thing that sticks in my mind is how the club inspired me from month to month, helping me put the leadership the members were looking for into words. It was the members that inspired me to keep plugging away on the clubs forward drive in the early days until we grew and

established one of the best communications link in the area. We gave a lot of ourselves to the community making a lot of people stand up and take notice that amateur radio was not what a lot of folks had visions of. I am very proud to have been a contributor to the success of the club up to this point in time.

What is important for every one to know is that the membership and not a few hams run this club. There is never a time when we turn down any activity on the part of members no matter how little it may seem to contribute. The club is a team finely tuned into the needs of each other and that is a very big factor to its success. I

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THE GARZETTE

THE GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, submit items in ASCII text format or Microsoft Word format by email to ichapman@intergate.net or by posting a private message on the SA BBS (770) 903-6789, to Ike Chapman in the GARS conference. Use the Save Attached command and mark the security to receiver only. Art can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted on an IBM formatted disk or via email as a uuencoded file attachment.

Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of transfer. Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.

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My thanks to all of them for their help in producing THE GARZETTE.

All correspondence relating to articles posted in THE GARZETTE or for information concerning advertisement rates for THE GARZETTE should be directed to the following address:

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Attn: Newsletter Editor

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There's A Wart On Your Nose

By Dean Matthews, AD4OD

Over deviated audio, loud car interior noise, alternator whine, audio too low to hear, radios that keep dropping out, signals off frequency, running PL tone and high power causing remote receivers to "hunt" excessively, slang reflective of CB being used, bad language, improper use of phonetics, technobabble terms flourishing, frequency hogging... bad practices which with others are becoming so common that new hams think this is normal and strive to emulate them to "fit in".

Ham radio prides itself on technical ability. If a ham has a problem with his signal, he (or she) should want to know about it, should strive to fix it at the first opportunity, and should want to avoid putting such a signal on the air until the situation is rectified. As trained, licensed technicians and operators, pride should prevent us from such a faux pas.

Operating practices are no different. Hundreds of articles have been written over the years in numerous publications of how we as hams should conduct ourselves on the air. No need to rehash that here, but it is important for newcomers to understand that operating practices and traditions differ depending on frequency and mode being used. It is the responsibility of the newcomer to learn, accept and follow the traditions of the portion of the service that they are attempting to enter into. This requires the use of "listening", an apparently soon-to-be lost art in Amateur Radio.

If a radio operator chooses to show his "individualism" and exercise his "rights of free speech" to disregard the traditions of any particular part of the amateur spectrum, or operate knowingly with a defective signal, then he is thumbing his nose at the very essence of Ham radio, and is in this writers

opinion not a ham, but just a licensed buffoon ("Lid").

The time honored tradition of running Lids off by not talking to them has a flaw, the good operators who should be leading by example are not on the air. Has there grown a large enough contingent of Lids that they could completely and continuously occupy a frequency (or pair)? Is this what is happening to OUR repeater?

Educate, don't criticize. Find out the name of a good operator who the offender respects, and get that person to talk to him off the air. Lets get the quality of repeater operation up to where it belongs, and run off those who don't respect Ham traditions.

♦♦♦

GARS Grows Again!

Thirteen new members were voted in at the January meeting:

Tom Dooley, KF4LSM
 Bill Van Dughoven, KE4TVA
 Sean Fleeman, KF4HOV
 Tom Fredrickson, KF4NBI
 John Kludt, N9ENG
 Spyros Kosmetatos, N4NIA
 Mac McCluer, KJ6OJ
 Maria McCluer, [Associate]
 Cory Sinyard, KF4NYQ
 Melissa Sinyard, [Associate]
 Dennis Weaver, KF4ODV
 Lanny Wiley, AE4QF
 Anna Marie Wiley, KF4OEP

Please welcome the new members to the club in person and on the GARS repeaters.

This brings the GARS membership to a total of 294.

Let's Go Ham Festing

By Johnny Fearon, W4WKP

Set aside the day of February 22 and let's a bunch of us take a drive to Dalton, GA. This ham fest started out small and has grown throughout the last six or seven years.

You won't find very much new equipment, though lots of new accessories are there. You will find lots of various used items there. It is interesting to just go and observe the trading, buying, and selling fevers. For you computer types, there is lots of stuff to catch your eye also.

One of the things that other groups do, is have a motorcade as they head that way. They all meet somewhere for breakfast and just enjoy ham fellowship. I'm going, any of you **GARS** members going to go and enjoy the day? It is held at the Whitfield County fair Grounds.

I may not buy anything when I go. But, I'll always either see some old friends, or make some new friends. After all, isn't that a large part of what ham radio is about? 73 and see you in Dalton.

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Random Ramblings

"There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in his home."

>>> Ken Olson, President, Digital Equipment, 1977

"I believe we are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy, but that could change."

>>> Vice President Dan Quayle

"I just need enough to tide me over until I need more."

>>> Bill Hoest

The President's Pen

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will be here in the background doing all I can to help the club further it's forward progress in the months ahead and giving our new president whoever he may be the support that he needs. Those of you reading this should make it a point to show up for the elections and make sure your candidate gets your vote. It is very important to you that you do so. Not to say that one of the fine candidates would be better than the other. They are both good hams and are both after the clubs best interests at heart. I am assuming at this point that we will have no further candidates for the president's office from the floor at this month's meeting. But that could be possible if there are some of you members out there who would like a challenge. You will get your chance at the meeting.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve these past three years and I wish the candidates a good turnout for the vote and my best wishes to them both no matter what the outcome. As for the other slate of officers, if there is no opposition to them and it looks like that will be the case, they are most deserving of the jobs again and will be a boost for the club as they have been in the past.

I wish to thank all those who supported me in the past three years. Your confidence in what I could do and me was overwhelming at times and reassuring so that I was able to continue when the going got rough and we did have some rough spots from time to time and some would say that it was not very funny.

Howie W4NVF

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1996-1997

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until we get one

Safety First

By Andrew Funk, KB7UV

GARS member Andy Funk is Assistant News Operations Manager for WAGA-TV and gave permission to use the following article detailing the safety concerns for setup of Electronic News Gathering (ENG) trucks for WAGA-TV. Further information can be obtained from their web site at <http://www.wagatv.com/ENG/>

We can extend these ideas to our operations as amateur radio operators setting up for emergency communications.

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INTRODUCTION

Safe work habits are vital to your well being. According to the National Safety Council, more than 10,000 workers in the U.S. are killed in industrial accidents each year. Approximately four percent of those accidents involve electricity.

The operation of an ENG unit with extensible mast can present life threatening hazards if all due precautions are not taken by the operator. Contact by the mast or antenna with power lines can kill or injure the operator, photographers operating cameras attached to the unit, support personnel, and bystanders.

It is the responsibility of the operator of the vehicle to see that all appropriate safety practices are observed and that any attempt to circumvent those practices is reported immediately.

Unless otherwise directed, the driver of the vehicle is designated as the operator of the unit. These procedures and policies are designed and intended to protect the lives of you and your colleagues. Failure to observe all possible precautions can result in serious bodily injury or death. **YOU COULD BE KILLED!**

STOP AND COUNT TO TEN

When you arrive at the site of the remote, stop and count to ten.

Recite the names of your kids, the full name of your spouse or "significant other", the full name of your ex-spouse, the name of the health insurance company, anything to force a pause. You probably just finished driving through traffic. If it's a breaking story there will be a lot of frenetic activity and noise. Spending ten seconds slowing down so the next steps are well planned can get you on the air faster, with less risk of making an unnecessary or hazardous mistake.

BEFORE RAISING THE MAST

The ENG vehicle must be parked in an appropriate location for safe mast operation. As the primary risk is power lines, if the nature of a utility line is not known then it shall be assumed to be a power line.

It is not safe to be parked:

Where there are power lines overhead. On the curb adjacent to utility poles carrying power lines.

Where power lines come within fifteen (15) feet of any portion of the mast and antenna, in any direction. On uneven ground where the vehicle is not reasonably level.

Where the mast will not be completely visible as it is extended.

Where the ENG unit is a traffic hazard.

When not operating in full daylight the operator must verify that the mast floodlight is operating before beginning to extend the mast. Overcast, dark shadow, and twilight are not full daylight, and the mast floodlight must be operating before extending the mast under these lighting conditions.

LOOK UP AND LIVE

Always remember to look above your vehicle for power lines and other obstructions. Tree branches can hide power lines from view, so always be on the lookout.

RAISING THE MAST

All personnel should be outside the vehicle while the mast is extended.

The operator must observe the mast continuously until it reaches full extension.

If it appears that there is risk of contact with power lines immediately shout at the top of your lungs and run away from the vehicle.

WHAT THE POWER INDUSTRY SAYS

The following safety information from the electric power industry concerns contact with power lines. If by some misfortune your mast does come in contact with a power line, following these procedures can save your life!

STAY CALM—STAY AWAY

If the vehicle you're operating contacts a power line, don't panic:

Stay where you are unless you are in danger from a fire or from being struck by a loose power line. You will be safe from electrical shock as long as you don't become a pathway for the current to flow to the ground. If you are in the vehicles, and the vehicle is operable, try to move it away from the power line if you can.

Warn others not to touch you or the vehicle! If you must get off a vehicle while it is in contact with a power line, JUMP as far away as you can. Land with both feet together. No part of your body should touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Once you are off the vehicle, remember that the ground may be energized. HOP

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Safety First

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away from the vehicle, keeping both feet together. This will prevent you from becoming a conductor between two areas of the ground which are charged differently.

Once you are clear, don't return to the vehicle until a power company representative tells you it is safe to do so.

If you are nearby when a vehicle contacts a power line, stay away and warn others to stay away. The best thing you can do to help anyone in the vehicle is to make sure someone calls 911 immediately. Don't add to the problem by rushing over; any rescue attempt may place you in danger, too. If you touch someone whose body is conducting current your body will become another link in a deadly chain.

DOWNED LINES CAN BE DEADLY

If you see a line down, stay away! Do not touch it or attempt to move it.

And don't assume the power company already knows about it. Call 911 immediately. The sooner the power company knows about the problem, the quicker they can respond. If someone comes in contact with a downed power line or is handling equipment that touches a power line, realize that any rescue attempt places you in danger. The further you stay away from the equipment, and the person, the better your chances of not being injured yourself. If you have to rescue a person in contact with a power line, never use your bare hands. Instead, use a dry, non-conductive object to move the person to safety.

BASIC SAFETY RULES

Electrical lines can cause serious injury or death. Keep all people, tools, and equipment at least 15 feet from all overhead wires.

Overhead lines are not insulated. They should not be touched. Some lines have a weather covering and so appear to be insulated, but they are not. Stay away from electrical devices such as meters, transformers, and substations.

THUNDER STORMS

The mast on an ENG unit is a lightning attractor. Lightning is just as hazardous as power lines.

When there is nearby lightning it is the responsibility of the vehicle operator to lower the mast and call in to ENG Receive or the Assignment Desk.

If lightning strikes anywhere close to the vehicle it's time for an immediate bail-out. Don't stop to lower the mast. Everyone should get out of the vehicle and far away as fast as possible.

Photographers and reporters should quickly disconnect themselves from any cables attached to the vehicle and also quickly move away.

Lightning safety is the responsibility of the vehicle operator. Your judgment will be respected by newsroom personnel.



Random Ramblings

"Whenever people agree with me I always feel I must be wrong."

>>> Oscar Wilde

"New York now leads the world's great cities in the number of people around whom you shouldn't make a sudden move."

>>> David Letterman

"When people are free to do as they please, they usually imitate each other."

>>> Eric Hoffer

"Military intelligence is a contradiction in terms."

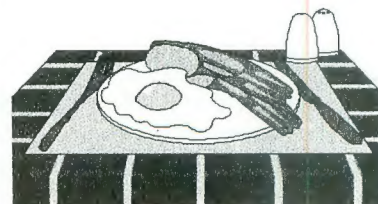
>>> Groucho Marx



Come join us at the
Weekly GARS
Family Breakfast.

We're currently meeting at the Steak N' Shake on Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road near the intersection of GA 120 and GA 316 in Lawrenceville. We start gathering about 8:00 AM and you will usually find people still there until around 10:00 AM. We invite you to come and enjoy food and fellowship with other **GARS** members and their family.

Talk-in for directions and more information is available on either of the **GARS** repeaters.



ARRL MEMBERS ASKED TO COMMENT ON LICENSE RESTRUCTURING IDEAS

ARRL members are being invited to add their ideas, comments and recommendations to those of the ARRL WRC-99 Planning Committee, which has suggested sweeping — and potentially controversial — changes to the Amateur Radio licensing structure in the US. On the table for open discussion and debate are proposals that include:

- * elimination of the Novice license
- * creation of a new Intermediate license to replace the Technician Plus
- * expanded HF privileges for Intermediate licensees, including phone on 160, 75 and 15 meters
- * a 10-wpm General CW test (with more stringent testing standards for all CW exams)
- * expanded phone privileges for General-class and higher licensees

Details of the plan, discussed during the recent ARRL Board of Directors meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, will appear in March QST. The Board says it seeks comments from members to ensure that before any plan goes forward, it enjoys broad support from the amateur community. The Board will not act on the issue at least until its July meeting.

After its research revealed that as many as three Novices in four are inactive, the committee concluded that the Novice license is no longer useful. Although the committee would end the Novice license, its plan provides current Novices with an easy means to upgrade (via an open-book test) to the new Intermediate class license, which would replace the current Technician Plus. All present Tech Plus licensees would become Intermediate licensees. The Basic license

would supplant the Technician license — now the hobby's most-popular entry-level ticket — with no changes in privileges. In addition, the committee's plan would phase out the current Novice and Tech Plus bands on 80, 40 and 15 meters, and replace them with new Intermediate-class allocations. The committee's consensus plan for Intermediate-class licensees calls for new CW bands on 80, 40 and 15 meters starting 25 kHz up from the lower band edge, digital and phone-band privileges on 75 and 15 meters and a 50-kHz phone or CW segment at the top end of 160 meters, plus expanded Novice and Tech Plus CW and phone allocations on 10 meters.

According to the proposal, Intermediate CW bands would be 3525 to 3700 kHz, 7025 to 7050 kHz, 21025 to 21150 kHz and 28050 to 28300 kHz. Digital operation was suggested for 3600 to 3625, 21100 to 21125 and 28100 to 28189 kHz. Phone privileges would include 1950 to 2000, 3900 to 4000, 21350 to 21450, SSB from 28300 to 28500 and FM from 29500 to 29700 kHz. Transmitter power for Intermediate-class licensees would be limited to 200 W PEP output (other licensees using these bands would not be limited to 200 W, however).

General-class and higher amateurs also would benefit from the plan, if it's adopted according to the committee's outlines. General-class hams would get additional phone privileges 3800 to 3850, 7200 to 7225, and 21250 to 21300 kHz; Advanced-class hams would add 3725 to 3775, 7125 to 7150 and 21175 to 21225 kHz; Extra-class hams would also have 3700 to 3750, 7125 to 7150 and 21150 to 21200 kHz.

With the exception of 40 me-

ters, where Novice and Tech Plus licensees already have privileges, the committee suggested no changes on the hobby's narrowest and most crowded bands—including 20 meters and the narrow WARC bands at 30, 17 and 12 meters.

The Intermediate CW test would be 5 words per minute (the same as the current Tech Plus requirement), but the committee proposed that the General class CW requirement be set at 10 wpm. There still would be no additional CW exam for the Advanced ticket, nor would there be any change in the 20-wpm requirement for the Extra. Exams for all classes would include a return to a sending test and the requirement for one minute of solid copy during a five-minute test—instead of the current method that tests on the content of the CW text.

Right now, these major changes are only in the talking stage. "Let us be very clear about this," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, who characterized the committee's proposals as a starting point for discussion, not a done deal. "The changes are not ARRL policy; nothing has been proposed to, or by, the FCC, and the ARRL Board is committed to making no decision before its July 1997 meeting." Sumner said there is no timetable to complete the process. Only after there is an opportunity for in-depth consideration and discussion by the membership will the ARRL Board consider taking the next step—to approach the FCC with a rulemaking proposal — a process that automatically invites additional comments and suggestions.

Between the time they receive March QST and May, members

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GARS Ham Of The Month

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pard, K5PPI. Pickett really had to do a sell job on E.W. because he was a little reluctant to get involved in the testing. He got his test, passed it, and three weeks later received his novice ticket in the mail. Pickett was now WN5ALS.

Later, Pickett met Bob Smith, WA5ARE and Cliff Darnell, W4HQZ. They were also model airplane enthusiasts and they helped Pickett build his first antenna. Pickett borrowed an "AM phone disabled" Johnson Viking Ranger transmitter and used his SX140 receiver and literally took over the 80/40 and 15 meter novice sections of the bands. He worked every station he could.

Although enjoying his novice days immensely, Pickett wanted his general. Getting a general in those days was an adventure too!! Not only did you have to copy 13-WPM code, but you had to send it too. Pickett was real proud when he got through the copying part, but he didn't realize he'd have to send too. Well, he did and passed, although the instructor had to keep prodding him to "speed up" at times. As a general, he and his brother, WA5AWO would work each other during their lunch breaks.

Pickett was now working for Sears and was transferred to Atlanta in 1964. He became WA4TCX and joined the Atlanta Radio Club. Who was the first person to formally welcome him to the club? Of course, Johnny Fearon, W4WKP. Pickett became quite active in that club. He has a DX100 and SB10 that he traded in to Amateur Electronic Supply for a Swan 240. With the Swan, Pickett built a Heathkit power supply.

Pickett spend Field Day 1964 with the Atlanta Radio Club group

and was shocked to see them using a separate transmitter and receiver at their field day site. Pickett drove to his house, picked up his transceiver, went on the air at field day and scored one of the highest scores in Atlanta Radio Club field day history.

In 1966, Pickett got a Drake TR4 and built the power supply from a TV transformer. He used this rig for 11 years from his home in Dunwoody.

In 1977, with his children grown and gone, Pickett took a brave stand. Pickett said "enough is enough", it's time for "the ultimate ham station". Pickett bought a Kenwood TS820s, a Dentrion MLA 2500 linear and a Dentrion tuner from ZZZ Electronics, a little ham company owned by (OH no, not him again!), you guessed it, Johnny Fearon, W4WKP. Pickett then rejoined the Atlanta Radio Club.

In 1978, Pickett's brother got his extra ticket and a special call sign of W5CE. Pickett couldn't stand it! He swore not to let his brother out do him, so Pickett passed his extra and became AD4S.

Pickett relocated to Chicago with Sears in 1983 and became one of the founders of that Discover card that we all use and love so much. He retired in 1992 after 35 years with Sears. He and his wife have five kids. Four are still in the Atlanta area. They have five great grandchildren. Pickett joined GARS in 1992. There were 54 members. He was the Secretary of GARS in 1993 and has been on the Field Day committee ever since. He loves to work a lot of 40-meter CW and how has a DX70 and has entertained the thoughts of working CW mobile.

Pickett has three ham stations. At his home in Lawrenceville, he has one upstairs and one downstairs. His third is at his lake cottage on Lake Lanier.

Pickett has many rigs. So many, that he and his brother are

thinking about opening a Ham Radio Museum. Among his many rigs are a pair of Drake Twins and an old Galaxy 5 transceiver.

Pickett was fun to interview as he had so much to say. If you hear him on the GARS machine, give him a call.

I would like to express my appreciation to Ike Chapman for filling in for me in January and the refreshing interview he did with our associate member Suzanne Farr. That was a great idea. Please get in touch with me if you have someone you would like to see featured as Ham of the Month. Remember, you only have to be a member of the club to qualify. Whether you are very active on the bands or not active at all makes no difference. I am still getting people reluctant to be interviewed because they feel they are not "interesting enough". To that I say..."poppycock". You all have an interesting story to tell. Just being a ham makes you interesting enough to be interviewed.

Remember that and I'll see you next month.

73
Karl, N4JON

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Random Ramblings

"Martyrdom is the only way a person can become famous without ability."

>>> George Bernard Shaw

"Equal opportunity means everyone will have a fair chance at being incompetent."

>>> Laurence J. Peter

"Many an opportunity is lost because a man is out looking for four-leaf clovers."

>>> Unknown

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Rules for DXing

From the Internet, Submitted by Johnny Fearon, W4WKP

1. If you come upon a pileup, find the exact DX frequency and slowly tune up your KW right on his frequency. Take your time doing this as it has maximum effect this way. The longer you take, the better.
2. If you cannot wait to find out the DX call sign, ask "What is the DX call sign?" Do this repeatedly until some one gives you the call, this will show all others on frequency that you are serious about wanting to work this DX. This is called sharing.
3. When you find out the DX call, repeat your call over and over again on the DX frequency, even if he is working split there is a chance he may be listening on his transmit frequency.
4. When the DX says "ABC only"- Don't believe him. If he says "Europe only", don't believe him. If he says, "2's only", don't believe him. Keep giving your call "XYZ!!...XYZ!!...XYZ!! HOW COPY MARIO?" Make sure you use his name when you call him, he may think you are some one he knows, it must work as we hear it on bands all the time so it has to be effective. Don't pay attention to directional CQs, when did any DX know what they wanted, what matters most is what you want.
5. To get the DX to work other modes tell him you want set up

a schedule later, which is convenient to you. You should wait until the pileup has built up to several hundred and just before the band is about to go out, then ask him to meet you on CW, RTTY or SSB at a set time and frequency. Above all, make sure you tell him that YOU need him on these modes. This will endear you in the hearts of all on frequency, it shows that you can work more than one mode and are a well-rounded amateur.

6. If you have worked the DX previously make sure you call him and tell him that he is stronger than the last 6 times you worked him this week. The DX station will want to know this. Others on frequency will respect you more, you will be recognized as a Big Gun DXer.
7. When you find a DX pileup, to bring your operating skills to a higher level and impress all those on frequency - Zero beat the DX send "QRL?" "Is this frequency in use?" This shows character and that you are truly a caring person.
7. When finally making the DX contact, give the DX some background about yourself, TX, RX, ANT, WX, how many children and grandchildren you have, where they went to college, what size bedroom slip-

per you wear, or any other items of interest to the DX. This shows that you are not just a 599 kind of guy. This is most effective when the band is just about to fold.

8. After you have worked the DX you will need the QSL route. Although this will be listed on the DX packet cluster, in ARRL & DX News Letters, and on the Internet, there is not reason for you to go to all the bother of reading these sources. You can just keep calling on the DX frequency... "What is the QSL Information?" If you don't get a reply with the information after 8 or 10 calls, keep it up, your persistence will pay off, there are plenty of other stations on frequency who are waiting to work the DX who have read these publications.

◆◆◆



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Interested in joining **GARS**?

Dues are \$25.00 per year for individual memberships and \$35.00 per year for family memberships. Student and senior citizen memberships are available for \$12.50 per year.

For further information contact **GARS** Membership Chairman David Adcock, KA4KKF at (770)271-9398 or email at adcock@ilinks.net. More information is also available on the **GARS** web page at www.gars.org.

Meeting Minutes

By Bill Ahls, KE4EIH

In attendance: President Howie Gould, W4NVF; Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Secretary Bill Ahls, KE4EIH; Treasurer Randy Drescher, K4HS; Activities Manager Marty Fowler, KE4MLH; News Letter Editor Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; and Membership Manager David Adcock, KA4KKF.

The meeting was called to order by President Gould on January 16, 1997, at 19:30 local time at the Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville.

President Gould made introductions with all members and visitors, with a total of 62 persons signing the meeting log.

During the first meeting of the New Year, we have volunteers for a variety of positions. The PR Chairman is John Sokol, KE4KPV and assisting PR is Joe Biddle, AD4PZ. Volunteers for the food committee are Earl Whatley, KE4TXZ, Ray Kaplan, KA9GJL, and Suzanne Farr. Assistant newsletter editor volunteer is Beverly Bryant, KE4VDI.

Randy Drescher, K4HS, presented the treasurers report and current **GARS** checking balance, which was approved by the membership.

The minutes for the November meeting were approved as published in the GARZETTE as December was for the Christmas

party.

Announcements for a demonstration scheduled at Radio Shack in Buford on the first Saturday in February (Feb 8). Breakfast socialization has begun around Gwinnett county listen up on the repeater about 8:00 AM Saturday.

Suzanne Farr reminded all members to get their **GARS** apparel orders to her.

Mark Kozma, KD3GC was taking field day equipment reservations for hams able to lend equipment for field day use. Carter Wood, KF4HLF volunteered his call sign for the novice station.

Jeff Harrison, KD4GPI distributed handouts and information for Skywarn Spotters. The regular net is Monday at 9:00 PM. The **GARS** repeater is used second and fourth Mondays, while simplex (146.505 MHz) is used first and third Mondays. Skywarn people with pagers let Jeff know if he can use that number in notification.

The new bylaws changes were passed unanimously as printed in the January 1997 Garzette. The first sentence of B.1 now reads, "Any person regardless of race, creed, national origin, or religious affiliation, and having an interest in Amateur Radio shall be eligible for membership in **GARS**."

David Adcock, KA4KKF presented thirteen applicants for membership in **GARS**. A motion

was made and seconded to accept the applicants as presented and passed without opposition. The new members of **GARS** are: Tom Fredrickson, KF4NBI; Bill Van Dughoven, KE4TVA; Cory Sinyard, KF4NYQ; Melissa Sinyard, [Associate]; Dennis Weaver, KF4ODV; Lanny Wiley, AE4QF; Anna Marie Wiley, KF4OEP; John Kludt, N9ENG; Sean Fleeman, KF4HOV; Spyros Kosmetatos, N4NIA; Tom Dooley, KF4LSM; Mac McCluer, KJ6OJ; and Maria McCluer, [Associate].

Nominations for officers were made as follows:

President

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM
David Adcock, KA4KKF

Vice President

Larry Osborne, KD4QFD

Secretary

Bill Ahls, KE4EIH

Treasurer

Randy Drescher, K4HS

Activities Manager

Marty Fowler, KE4MLH

Other nominations may be made at the February meeting prior to the voting.

The Packet report by John Farr, KD6CLO. Two meters is up at 1200 baud on 145.03 MHz, 9600 baud at 441.0 MHz, and soon APRS at 145.79 MHz.

President Gould adjourned the meeting at 21:35.

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Work GARS

REPEATERS

2-Meter 147.075 MHz ⁺⁶⁰⁰
PL 82.5
70-cm 444.525 MHz ^{+5MHz}
PL 156.7

TELEPHONE BBS

GARS Conference in
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(770) 903-6789

6-METER BEACON

WA4IOB 6 Meter Beacon at
50.075 MHz

PACKET

WD4JXR-6 / SNELLV Packet
Node/Digipeater 145.03 MHz

SWAP, WANTED and SELL NET

Tuesdays at 8:00PM on the
GARS 2m Repeater.

MORSE CODE PRACTICE

An interactive Morse Code practice session follows the 8:00PM Tuesday night net on the **GARS** 2m repeater.

PACKET RADIO USERS NET

Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on the **GARS**
2m Repeater.

◆◆◆

Proposed License Changes

(Continued from page 6)

are asked to voice their opinions on the committee's suggestions to their directors, whose postal and e-mail addresses are listed on page 10 of QST. All suggestions and comments — positive and negative — are welcome.

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Random Ramblings

"Time is an illusion. Lunchtime doubly so."

>>> Douglas Adams

"I'm an idealist. I don't know where I'm going but I'm on my way."

>>> Carl Sandburg

"The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits."

>>> unknown



Rookie Radio

By Cheryl McClure, AE4HN

Well, the holidays are past and now it's time to start planning another year of Rookie Radio. What kinds of classes, workshops and kit building would you like to do this year?

Is anyone interested in building kits? I've heard that Ten-Tec has finally released their updated two-meter radio kit. Would you be interested in getting together in a group with a knowledgeable ham to build your own two-meter radio? If so, give me a call at (770) 995-5159 or let me know at a meeting and I will set it up. This type of project is great for winter. When the weather warms up again we may plan another antenna building workshop. You can make your own dipole in just a few hours!

We do have a seminar in the works. John Farr, KD6CLO, has agreed to present a workshop on the basics of packet radio including information on the APRS system he is setting up for **GARS**. Packet radio is digital communications via amateur radio. It takes any digital data stream and sends that via radio to another amateur radio station. For example, I would type a sentence on my computer, send it through a special modem (called a TNC or Terminal Node Controller) through my radio and another amateur radio operator with the same type equipment will decode it. Packet radio is so named because it sends the data in small bursts, or

packets. John will show you what you need to set up your own station and answer any questions you might have. If you already have a computer and a two-meter radio, all you need is the TNC and a connecting cable and you can be on the air! He will also fill us in on a new application called APRS, which combines GPS (Global Positioning Satellites) with packet radio to allow a station to plot on their computer the location of other stations. This can be used to locate DX stations or to coordinate the exact position of weather spotters or searchers, without having to waste radio time informing the control station of their locations. This sounds really interesting. I'll be announcing the date for this soon, so stay tuned to the weekly **GARS** net on Tuesday night or to this space in the newsletter.



Random Ramblings

"Two paradoxes are better than one, they may even suggest a solution."

>>> Edward Teller

"Discretion is being able to raise your eyebrow instead of your voice."

>>> Unknown



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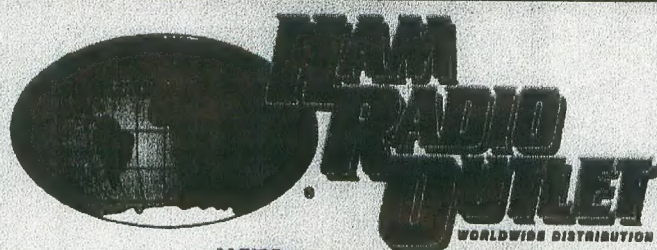
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Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House, 5490 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by meeting. Talk In -145.410(-)

First Wednesday

HamWatch

Alpha Soda Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM

First Thursday

N.E. Ga ARC

Jefferson Civic Center, off Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson. Meeting is at 6:30PM. Talk In - 147.225(+)

Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Power Federal Credit Union, 4900 Ashford Dunwoody Road, 1 Mile North of Perimeter Mall. Meeting is at 7:30PM Talk In -146.820(-)

Second Wednesday

North Fulton Radio League

Alpha Soda Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM Talk In - 145.47(-)

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting at 7:30PM. Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday

East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at 10:00AM. Talk In - 145.410(-)

3rd THURSDAY

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Gwinnett Justice And Administrative Center in Lawrenceville. Meeting begins at 7:30 in the main auditorium Talk In-147.075(+)

Visit **GARS** On The World Wide Web

<http://www.gars.org>

Up to date information on club activities,
officers, committees, announcements,
THE GARZETTE Online, and much more.

Email suggestions for additions to
gtomlin@mindspring.com or ichapman@intergate.net

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THE GARZETTE

FEBRUARY, 97

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30226



GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Drive in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on February 20 at 7:30 P.M.

PAGE 12

THE GARZETTE

FEBRUARY, 97

Metro Atlanta Test Sessions

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI VEC
Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 338-8791
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road,
Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - ARRL VEC
Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758
St. Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell
Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM
George White, KN4NG 361-6850
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg.
7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM
Mike Mahaffey, AD4QB - 974-7710
First Presbyterian Church,
183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759
Walton EMC
3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - CA VEC
Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - CA VEC
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171
Marietta First United Methodist Church
56 Whitlock Ave, Room 305

4th Sunday- 2:30PM - ARRL VEC
Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142
Episcopal Church of the Atonement
Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM ARRL VEC
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK - 942-6466
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday - 7:00PM
GARS W5YI-VEC
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362
St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks
Trickum Rd, Lilburn

Metro Area Nets And Roundtables

Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Mon	147.075+	9:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARS CW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Packet Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Wed	146.655-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahoochie ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.